

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 DHA-02 ORM-02 DIWY-01 SS-15

NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 PRS-01

PA-01 USIA-06 /073 W

-----071514Z 104187 /46

R 071416Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8609

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS - PALESTINIAN PRISONERS IN ISRAELI PRISONS

1. SUMMARY: ON JANUARY 6, CONSUL GENERAL MET DELEGATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA TO RECEIVE A PETITION CONCERNING CONDITIONS OF PALESTINIANS IN ISRAELI PRISONS AND ESPECIALLY SITUATION OF PRISONERS ENGAGING IN HUNGER STRIKE. DELEGATION CLAIMED THAT EFFORTS TO PRESENT CASE DIRECTLY TO MILGOV HAD BEEN REBUFFED AND THAT ICRC HAD PROVED INEFFECTIVE. DELEGATION URGED SPECIAL INVESTIGATING BODY CONSISTING OF US, ICRC AND PALESTINIAN REPS BE SET UP TO DETERMINE FACTS AND OBTAIN REMEDIAL ACTION. CONSUL GENERAL PROMISED TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH ICRC AND EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

2. AT REQUEST OF EAST JERUSALEM NOTABLE AND FORMER JORDANIAN CABINET MINISTER ANWAR NUSEIBEH, CONSUL
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GENERAL AGREED TO RECEIVE DELEGATION COMPOSED OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA WHO ALSO REPRESENT RELATIVES OF PALESTINIANS IMPRISONED IN ISRAEL. GROUP OF 22 DELEGATES PRESENTED THEIR DEMANDS IN AN EMOTIONAL AND SOMETIMES DISORDERLY SESSION AT THE NABLUS ROAD OFFICE JANUARY 6.

3. THEIR WRITTEN DEMANDS FOLLOW:

A. FAIR TREATMENT FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS
AS PROVIDED IN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS,
ESPECIALLY THE GENEVA CONVENTION, WHICH
SPECIFIES THE RIGHTS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

B. IMPROVING THE HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE
PRISONERS BY OFFERING PROPER MEDICAL CARE
THROUGH ALLOWING A TEAM OF DOCTORS SELECTED
BY THE PARENTS TO VISIT THE PRISONERS AND TO
EXAMINE THEM.

C. REMOVE ALL RESTRICTIONS WHICH PREVENT
THE PRISONERS FROM TALKING TO EACH OTHER AND
CEASE THE POLICY OF ISOLATING THEM.

D. IMPROVE NUTRITION QUALITY-WISE AND
QUANTITY-WISE.

E. PERMITTING THE SUPPLY OF POLITICAL BOOKS
AND DAILY ARABIC NEWSPAPERS.

F. REFRAINING FROM IMPOSING COMPULSORY
WORK ON POLITICAL PRISONERS.

G. PERMITTING PRISONERS TO RECEIVE
WINTER CLOTHING.

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H. REMOVE WIRE PARTITIONS IN THE VISITING
ROOMS.

GROUP HAD SENT COPY OF PETITION TO SYG WALDHEIM, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE, ICRC, UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,
ARAB UN DELEGATIONS AND TO CONSULS IN JERUSALEM. GROUP HAS
REQUESTED URGENT MEETING OF SECURITY COUNCIL ON SITUATION IN THE
WEST BANK AND GAZA WITH EMPHASIS ON PRISONERS.

4. GROUP ALLEGED THAT PRISONERS HAD BEEN TORTURED AND THAT
THE LIVES OF NUMEROUS PRISONERS IN ASHKELON, BEERSHEBA AND
RAMLE FACILITIES WERE ENDANGERED BY A HUNGER STRIKE. DURING A
RECENT ATTEMPT TO VISIT PRISONERS, THE LATTER HAD REFUSED TO
SEE THEIR RELATIVES AND HAD DECLARED THEIR INTENTION TO
MAINTAIN THEIR HUNGER STRIKE UNTIL THEIR DEMANDS WERE MET.

5. WHEN QUESTIONED, GROUP SAID THEY HAD ATTEMPTED TO
MEET WITH MILGOV WHO ALLEGEDLY SEND WORK MEMBERS OF HIS
STAFF WOULD MEET WITH RELATIVES OF INDIVIDUAL PRISONERS BUT

THAT PERSONS REPRESENTING MORE THAN ONE PRISONER COULD NOT BE RECEIVED. ATTEMPTS HAD BEEN MADE TO MOBILIZE WEST BANK MAYORS BUT THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT MAYORS COULD DISCUSS INDIVIDUAL CASES OF ONLY THOSE PRISONERS FROM THEIR TOWNS. GROUP POINTED OUT PRISONERS FROM JERUSALEM HAD NO ONE TO SPEAK ON THEIR BEHALF.

6. GROUP STATED MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED REPEATEDLY WITH ICRC BUT THAT NO RESULTS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. THEY URGED CREATION OF SPECIAL BODY CONSISTING OF US, ICRC AND PALESTINIAN REPS TO VISIT MAIN PRISONS, DETERMINE CONDITIONS, AND SEEK PROMPT REMEDIES.

7. CONSUL GENERAL NOTED HE WAS NOT ACCREDITED TO GOI. HE PROMISED TO STUDY PETITION, INFORM DEPARTMENT, AND CONSULT WITH EMBASSY AND ICRC TO SEE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, MIGHT BE DONE.
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8. ARABIC NEWSPAPERS AL QUDS AND ASHA'B JAN 7 CARRY ACCOUNTS OF THE MEETING AND INCORRECTLY STATE THAT CONSUL GENERAL PROMISED TO MOBILIZE JERUSALEM CONSULAR CORPS ON BEHALF OF PRISONERS.

9. ON JAN 7, CONSUL GENERAL AND DPO HELD DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH JERUSALEM ICRC REP WITSCHI REPORTED SEPTTEL. ALSO UNDERSTAND EMBASSY HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH TEL AVIV ICRC REP WHICH EMBASSY IS REPORTING.
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Message Attributes

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